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SEPTEMBER MEETING, 1882.

The stated meetings were resumed on Thursday, the 14th instant, at 3 o'clock P.M.; the senior Vice-President, Dr. GEORGE E. ELLIS, in the chair. The attendance of members was not so large as usual at the beginning of the meeting, as many wished to pay a last tribute of respect to a venerable associate, Dr. Chandler Robbins, whose funeral was appointed for this afternoon. The Society was officially represented at this funeral by Mr. Deane and Dr. Green, who served as pallbearers.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the June meeting, and it was accepted.

The Librarian reported the gifts to the Library during the summer vacation. These included volumes of their publications from the London Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Historical Society, and the New York Historical Society. The Rev. James Reed, of Boston, had presented a parcel of the manuscript papers of the late Captain John Percival, U.S.N., an able but somewhat eccentric officer.*

The VICE-PRESIDENT then spoke as follows:—

In coming together again after the suspension of our meetings for two months, we have to recognize the loss by death from our rolls of a Resident Member, and of two Honorary Members. Some of us have just been in attendance upon the funeral of the Rev. Chandler Robbins, D.D., who died at his summer home in Weston, on Monday, the 11th inst. For the last few years he has been wholly deprived of sight, and was for several months visited by many infirmities. He had been a member of this Society for thirty-seven years, during seven of which he was its Recording Secretary, and for the thirteen years following he conducted its official correspondence, having been elected Corresponding Secretary in 1864, which office he resigned in 1877. His continued earnest interest in its work and objects has been touchingly

* These papers are contained in two bundles, indorsed by Captain Percival: "The Accounts of Thos. Murdock, James Thopson, Joshua Howell and Charles W. White, settled, and signed and sealed, thank God. Percival Trustee;" and "Letters and Papers relating to Edwards, and the different Trials brought by him and his coadjutors in villainy." Captain Percival entered the navy in 1809, and died in Dorchester, Sept. 17, 1862. — Eds.

exhibited to us by his patient presence and his quiet attention, for the most part in silence, at many of our meetings, even within this year. He had performed for the Society many laborious and valuable services, exercising industry, good judgment, a fine taste, thoroughness of research, and a supreme regard for accuracy in historical statements, in his office, and in his membership of committees on our publications.

At the time of his death Dr. Robbins was in his seventy-third year, he having been born in Lynn, Feb. 14, 1810, the son of an eminent physician. He graduated at Harvard in 1829, and having completed a theological course at Cambridge, was ordained in December, 1833, as successor of Ralph Waldo Emerson in the pastorate of the Second Church in this city. He was the author of a valuable History of this Church, in which he devoted a loving effort to the commemoration of the distinguished careers of his predecessors, Drs. Increase and Cotton Mather. He sought especially, as far as the truth of the record would allow, to relieve the latter from some of the disesteem and reproach which have attached to him in history, or in popular judgment.

After a ministry of forty-one years he resigned his office in 1874, and has since lived in retirement. His devout and affectionate spirit, his faithful pastoral services, his exclusive concentration of time and zeal upon his peculiar calling, without seeking notoriety in external concerns, gave to those who came nearest to him in domestic relations of a remarkably favored character, and to the members of his church and parish, grounds for the strongest attachment and respect. Of his literary works a full notice may be looked for in his memoir to be duly prepared for the Proceedings of this Society.

George Perkins Marsh, LL.D., American Minister to the court of Italy during the last twenty-one years, died while discharging with signal honor the functions of that office, on July 24, at Vallombrosa, Italy, in his eighty-second year. He was elected a Corresponding Member in 1858, and transferred to the Honorary list in 1875. His death, with warm expressions of respect and sympathy, was announced to our own government by that at which he represented it. He was born at Woodstock, Vermont, March 17, 1801. Graduating at Dartmouth in 1820, he studied and practised law at Burlington. Having done valued service in the executive council of his native State, he represented it in Congress from

1842 till, in 1849, he was commissioned by President Taylor, Resident Minister at Constantinople, his term being four years. Here he studiously availed himself of his opportunities for historical, linguistic, and severely critical studies, for which he had a strong natural proclivity, and in which he attained extraordinary results. In 1852 he was sent on a special government mission to Greece, winning high consideration and honors for his wisdom, intelligence, acquisitions, and diplomatic accomplishments. An interval of release from public service gave him leisure for indulging and improving his scholarly tastes and researches. He travelled extensively over northern and central Europe, earnestly studious of the Northern languages, especially the Scandinavian, in which he became a proficient and a high authority, opening his treasures to many grateful pupils. Returning home for a brief period, he gave his native State the benefit of his experience in many services. He published a Grammar of, and various magazine articles upon, Icelandic literature. A favorite study and theme of his for print and for address, in 1844, was "The Influence of the Goths in New England." In 1856 he published a very noteworthy volume on the Camel, and its adaptation for use on our Western plains. In 1858-59 he delivered a course of lectures at Columbia, and a second course before the Lowell Institute, in Boston, in 1860-61, on the English Language, not as a follower or a critic of others' methods, but with evidences and results of profound original research, and of acute analytical skill. In 1864 appeared his elaborate work entitled "Man and Nature; or, Physical Geography as Modified by Human Actions." Thus he proved himself a man of native mental capacities of the highest order, with conscientious fidelity, earnestness, and devotion in the acquisition and in the imparting of the severely won fruits of toil. It was, however, in the service to which he was commissioned by President Lincoln, in 1861, performed till his death, as the first diplomatic representative of our government with the new kingdom of Italy, that he has been most widely known, appreciated, and honored. In converse with him at Rome, many scholars of our own and of other countries must have been reminded of a man of like scholarly tastes and acquirements, once in that city as a diplomatist,—the historian Niebuhr. Mr. Marsh was attractive, instructive in intercourse, and helpful to his fellow-countrymen abroad and at home, privately and officially. He has won honor to our country as its representative.

Happening to be in Newport for the summer, I met there,

a fortnight ago, the Rev. Dr. R. J. Nevin, Minister of St. Paul's American Episcopal Church in Rome. As one of the executors of Mr. Marsh, he offered to me for examination a full manuscript catalogue of the library left by him as a part of his estate, which circumstances make fitting should be sold for the benefit of his family. It contains twelve thousand volumes. Of course, with a considerable miscellaneous and modern element, it includes a very large number of rare, valuable, ancient, and curious works, some of them of an unique character. It is rich in volumes in the Catalan, the Dutch, and the Scandinavian literature. The library should find a ready place and welcome in one of our universities.*

It is fit that we should respectfully put upon our records a mention of one now deceased, who in a long term of membership filled successively every office, including the presidency, of our sister Historical Society of the State of New York. Frederic de Peyster, a veritable Knickerbocker, of the truest type, died August 17, at Tivoli, New York, in his eighty-sixth year. His first ancestor in this country was Johannes de Peyster, a native of Haarlem, Holland, who came to New York, as a merchant, in 1645. His father, Frederic, as a Loyalist in our Revolutionary time, was an officer in one of the king's regiments here. Though the son could ably explain and stand for the rectitude of the paternal allegiance to the crown, he was himself a patriotic citizen of the republic. Being in his course as a student in Columbia College in 1812, he was captain of a company of his fellows, and labored on some field-works. He was for many years a State military officer. He was educated for the bar, and was eminent in high legal stations. Columbia gave him the degree of LL.D. in 1867. He was charged with various trusts in civil, ecclesiastical, and benevolent institutions, and closed his long life highly respected and honored.

The following Resolution was reported from the Council:—

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Historical Society have learned with sincere regret of the death of their late associate, the Rev. Dr. Chandler Robbins, for many years a faithful officer of the Society; and that Mr. Charles C. Smith be appointed to prepare a Memoir of him for the Proceedings.

* It is stated in the newspapers that Mr. Frederick Billings, of Woodstock, Vermont, has purchased Mr. Marsh's library, and that he will present it to the University of Vermont, of which he is an alumnus, and of which Mr. Marsh was a trustee during his residence at Burlington.

In seconding this Resolution, the Rev. Dr. DEXTER said he hoped it would not be thought in bad taste for him—a member of a religious communion other than that immediately bereaved in the death of Dr. Robbins, and one which in former days had been sharply separated from his—to testify how sincere was the regard entertained by Orthodox Congregationalists for the character, and how high was their appreciation of the work, of our late associate. It had been already remarked that among the special labors of his useful life was a careful, accurate, and candid History of the Second Congregational Church of Boston, of which he was so long pastor. In the course of that History it came in his way to refer to the character and services of two of his eminent predecessors in that historic pulpit, Drs. Increase and Cotton Mather. We all understand how the conflicts of opinion have raged around these men, particularly the younger of the two; and how fashionable it has been, in certain quarters, to cast obloquy upon Cotton Mather as a pedant, and, in the matter of witchcraft, a dupe, if not a conspirator and a malignant. But Dr. Robbins portrayed the lives and labors of these men with so ample a scholarship, so appreciative a spirit, and so thoroughly candid a temper, as to win the hearts of intelligent Christians of the Orthodox persuasion, and to make for himself a place in their confidence and affection which he securely held, with ever-increasing strength, to the end of his days. Perhaps no man out of the ranks of their own immediate affiliations will be more sincerely mourned by that portion of the Congregational ministry still substantially retaining their ancient faith, than Chandler Robbins. Again begging pardon if what he had said should seem to border on a tone of remark unusual here, the speaker expressed the hope that all of us who, like Dr. Robbins, represent names and lineage which are dear to the historic spirit of New England may as worthily remember the past, and as usefully work for the future.

Mr. DEANE said:—

Mr. Chairman,—I should like to say a few words concerning our late member, Dr. Robbins, whose death has been announced at this meeting. His departure brings back to my recollection some things which I should like to speak of. As executive officers of this Society we were brought into most intimate relations for many years, and I can bear testimony to the faithful and conscientious service which he

rendered here. Every member of thirty years' standing knows that when Mr. Winthrop became President in 1855 a new era was opened for the Society. I avail myself of the absence of the President at this time to say this. Through his masterly executive skill the Society was regenerated. A condition of pervading uncleanness and disorder gave place to cleanliness and order. To accomplish all this, money had to be raised, for the Society was poor, and the services of an additional assistant in the Library had to be engaged. An attempt was made to make the valuable treasures of the Society more accessible, and their place of deposit more attractive. A new catalogue of the books and manuscripts was begun. It happened that I was chairman of the Standing Committee that year, and Dr. Robbins was a member of it. I well remember the time and labor spent in the attempt to bring order out of chaos. Dr. Robbins was chairman of the Standing Committee in the following year, and what he did in continuing the good work here begun may in part be gathered from his official report rendered at the close, and published in the Proceedings. An additional and extra service devolved upon him that year. In August, 1856, Mr. Dowse, through Mr. Livermore, presented his magnificent library to the Society, and after his death, a few months later, a special room had to be fitted up here for the reception of the books. This was done under the direction of a special committee, of which Dr. Robbins was chairman, and the books were transferred to their new and elegant repository in time for the Annual Meeting in April, 1857. Some of the members will remember the meeting on that day. Alas! the roll of the Society contains the names of but twelve members now living who could have been present at that meeting. After the business of the Annual Meeting had been transacted, Dr. Robbins, at the close of his report, delivered the key of the Dowse Library to Mr. Livermore, as the executor of Mr. Dowse. Mr. Livermore, in a few modest and appropriate words addressed to the Chair, proposed that the Society should now proceed to take possession of the Dowse Library. He therefore delivered the key to the President, who invited Mr. Quincy and Mr. Savage, the senior members of the Society, to marshal the newly elected officers and the members to the new room, now thrown open; and, after all were seated, delivered an interesting and graceful address suited to the occasion, and concluded by reading a letter from the executors of Mr. Dowse announcing a gift to the Society of ten thousand dollars, the income of which was to be used to enable the Society to fulfil the trust

imposed upon it in accepting the care of the Dowse Library. I have said that a catalogue of the books and manuscripts of the Society was commenced at this time. The work was done by our admirable assistant librarian, Dr. John Appleton. Dr. Robbins was untiring in his care and oversight of it from the beginning, answering questions and settling difficulties; and he was chairman of the committee to whom the work was intrusted while it was passing through the press. I was joined with him on that committee. In a letter to me written in September, 1859, when the first volume of the catalogue was about to be issued, he said, "It would be a great satisfaction to me to be able to relieve my conscience of its reproaches for having spent so much time, in one way and another, upon the catalogue, from the time when I was chairman of the Standing Committee to the present." The second volume was issued in the following year. Dr. Robbins was chosen Recording Secretary in 1857, and held that office for seven years. Beside discharging the ordinary duties of the office, he was also the editor of the Society's Proceedings, and four volumes were issued under his faithful care. In 1864 he was chosen Corresponding Secretary, and I succeeded him as Recording Secretary. For thirteen years thenceforward we sat together at our round table, as the monthly meetings came round, flanking our President on his right and left. Indeed, at other times, almost any day at high noon, we were quite likely to meet "at the rooms," and to be joined by the President and other officers and members, where the interests of the Society were considered and kindred themes discussed. No one had the well-being of the Society more at heart than Dr. Robbins, and to his excellent judgment and good taste the Society owes much. His never-failing courtesy was a marked characteristic. He held a ready and graceful pen, and the notes and annotations to the publications intrusted to his editorial care were written with ease and with abundant illustration.

His last great bereavement, the loss of sight, which was succeeded by the obscuration of his fine intellect, was borne by him with the utmost cheerfulness. I never heard a murmur fall from his lips. I could not refrain, Mr. Chairman, from adding to your own tribute this brief memorial to his worth.*

* Mr. Deane was prevented from offering these remarks at the meeting, as he was engaged in officially representing the Society as a pall-bearer at the funeral of Dr. Robbins, which occurred at the same hour. He has yielded to the wish and judgment of the Committee, and allows them to be printed as part of the record. — Eds.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Dr. ELLIS announced the nomination of the Rev. James Freeman Clarke to prepare the Memoir of the late Mr. Emerson. W. E. Hartpole Lecky, LL.D., was elected an Honorary Member, and Professor James Bryce, D.C.L., a Corresponding Member.

A volume of Collections, containing the Fourth Part of the "Winthrop Papers," was placed upon the table, and, on motion of the Rev. Mr. Porter, the thanks of the Society were voted to the Committee who had prepared the volume. The following vote of thanks was also passed:—

Voted, That the thanks of the Massachusetts Historical Society are returned to Robert C. Winthrop, Jr., Esq., for his generous contribution to their Collections in assuming the whole cost of the fourth volume of the Winthrop Papers.

The Hon. SAMUEL C. COBB, in behalf of the committee of the subscribers to a portrait of Mr. Winthrop, to be placed in the Capitol at Washington, asked leave to deposit in the Society's archives the original subscription list, Mr. Winthrop's reply to the request to sit for the portrait, the official vote of Congress accepting the picture, and other papers relating to the matter.

These documents, which possess some special interest for the members of this Society, here follow:—

BOSTON, January, 1882.

The undersigned, recognizing the important service rendered to the country by the Honorable ROBERT C. WINTHROP in his admirable oration upon the occasion of the National Centennial Celebration, at Yorktown, Virginia, in October last, and desiring to manifest their great respect and personal regard for an honored citizen of Massachusetts, hereby contribute the sums set against their respective names for the purpose of procuring a portrait of Mr. Winthrop to be placed in the Capitol, at Washington, the scene of his early political distinction.

John D. Long.
E. R. Hoar.
Samuel C. Cobb.
W. Amory.
William Perkins.
W. G. Russell.
H. W. Paine.
Franklin Haven.
William Gaston.
Robert R. Bishop.

Robert D. Smith.
John L. Gardner.
Otis Norcross.
Charles Merriam.
Leverett Saltonstall.
George Gardner.
Phillips Brooks.
William B. Rogers.
Samuel A. Green.
James L. Little.

George C. Richardson.
J. Ingersoll Bowditch.
John L. Bremer.
George O. Shattuck.
Lemuel Shaw.
John J. Clarke.
Winslow Warren.
Henry L. Pierce.
Benj. S. Rotch.
Theodore Lyman.

Samuel Johnson.	Henry Whitman.	Nathaniel W. Curtis.
George P. Upham.	C. F. Adams, Jr.	Roger Wolcott.
George D. Howe.	Charles C. Smith.	John T. Coolidge.
James S. Amory.	Thomas Talbot.	Josiah Wheelwright.
Thomas Lamb.	J. Edwards.	Thos. G. Frothingham.
Samuel G. Snelling.	J. L. Stackpole.	T. G. Appleton.
Augustus T. Perkins.	Robert Treat Paine, Jr.	O. W. Holmes.
Benjamin C. White.	J. B. Thomas.	Edmund H. Bennett.
Robert M. Cushing.	Mahlon D. Spaulding.	Samuel L. Crocker.
Alexander H. Rice.	William W. Greenough.	John C. Ropes.
H. P. Kidder.	J. Putnam Bradlee.	John C. Gray.
F. H. Peabody.	R. M. Morse, Jr.	Charles P. Curtis.
O. W. Peabody.	Francis A. Peters.	James H. Beal.
F. E. Parker.	Joseph A. Laforme.	A. S. Wheeler.
A. P. Martin.	Marshall P. Wilder.	Frederick L. Ames.
Fred. H. Bradlee.	Charles W. Eliot.	H. Stockton.
S. Bartlett.	Nathaniel Thayer.	Wm. S. Dexter.
James Freeman Clarke.	H. H. Hunnewell.	Charles D. Homans.
Frederic W. Lincoln.	James Guild.	Robert H. Stevenson.
William Minot.	Abbott Lawrence.	John F. Anderson.
Wm. Endicott, Jr.	Charles Francis Adams.	Henry B. Rogers.
Peleg W. Chandler.	Henry Lee.	S. Endicott Peabody.
Frederick O. Prince.	D. R. Whitney.	G. W. Blagden.
S. K. Lothrop.	Wm. S. Appleton.	David P. Kimball.
F. M. Weld.	George Dexter.	Charles F. Choate.
Ezra Farnsworth.	J. Q. Adams.	Alexander Agassiz.
Samuel B. Rindge.	Alpheus Hardy.	Henry W. Longfellow.
S. Parkman Dexter.	Arthur T. Lyman.	Wm. C. Endicott.
Charles H. Dalton.	Wm. R. Robeson.	Thomas Motley.
Nathaniel J. Bradlee.	George R. Minot.	Arthur Dexter.
Amos A. Lawrence.	S. W. Marston.	Francis Parkman.
Charles Faulkner.	N. Thayer, Jr.	R. W. Hooper.
S. D. Warren.	William Parsons.	Charles R. Codman.
Jacob C. Rogers.	W. W. Clapp.	Henry Winthrop Sargent.
Wm. C. Rogers.	James C. Davis.	Charles L. Pierson.
John Cummings.	John C. Phillips.	Nathaniel Walker.
A. O. Bigelow.	Isaac Thacher.	Theodore Chase.
Augustus Lowell.	C. P. Hemenway.	George M. Barnard.
Samuel R. Payson.	T. Quincy Browne.	C. H. Joy.
Charles H. Parker.	Thomas E. Proctor.	Timothy T. Sawyer.
George E. Ellis.	Edward Bangs.	W. Powell Mason.
Robert Codman.	J. W. Balch.	Ellis Ames.
Henry C. Weston.	F. L. Higginson.	Edward Lawrence.
Charles Deane.	C. A. Whittier.	T. H. Perkins.
George Lewis.	Arthur W. Blake.	Stephen Salisbury.
F. Gordon Dexter.	George B. Chase.	Chandler Robbins.
Richard Olney.	W. D. Pickman.	Joshua M. Sears.
Charles U. Cotting.	Henry A. Whitney.	E. D. Peters.
Francis W. Palfrey.	E. Pierson Beebe.	George Peabody.

BOSTON, 30 January, 1882.

The Honorable ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

MY DEAR SIR,—The Paper, of which I enclose a copy, will give you sufficient information of an enterprise in which your neighbors and friends take a warm interest; and I am authorized on their behalf to

ask your consent to the execution of the plan, and that you will select the artist, and arrange with him for giving the necessary sittings, at your earliest convenience. I remain, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL C. COBB.

The Honorable SAMUEL C. COBB.

Boston, 3 February, 1882.

MY DEAR SIR, — The Paper which accompanied your kind note of the 30th ultimo calls for the most grateful acknowledgments.

I am deeply sensible to so unexpected a tribute from those whose good opinion and friendly regard must ever be precious to me.

Such an array of eminent names, of all professions and parties, recognizing my late oration at Yorktown as "an important service rendered to the country," lends a value to the Paper altogether beyond the personal distinction which it proposes for me, and I would willingly have had the tribute end with that expression.

Yet I know not how to decline the invitation to allow my portrait to take its place, under such agreeable auspices, in the line of Speakers at Washington, according to the arrangement recently made for one of the corridors of the Capitol. No art, indeed, can obliterate the traces of the more than thirty years which have elapsed since it was my privilege, as a young man, to occupy the Chair of the House of Representatives of the United States. But I may well be content that this early honor should be associated with my effort, as an old man, to illustrate the crowning triumph of our Revolutionary struggle, by the generous aid of France, on the occasion which has called forth so distinguished a compliment from my fellow-citizens and friends.

Accept for them all, and for yourself, dear Sir, my sincere thanks, and believe me, with great regard,

Very faithfully yours,

ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

Boston, June 10, 1882.

To the Honorable LEOPOLD MORSE and AMBROSE A. RANNEY,
Representatives in Congress from the City of Boston.

GENTLEMEN, — A large number of citizens of Massachusetts have united in procuring a portrait of the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, formerly Speaker of the House of Representatives, which they wish to present to the United States, in recognition of his recent masterly oration at Yorktown, delivered at the request of Congress, and desire that it may be placed in the Speaker's Room in the Capitol at Washington.

On behalf of the donors, we would ask you to have the kindness to take charge of presenting the picture in the proper manner, and at a suitable time, to the House of Representatives.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JOHN D. LONG,	} Committee.
E. R. HOAR,	
SAMUEL C. COBB,	

47th Congress,
First Session.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the House of Representatives.

JUNE 27, 1882.

Resolved, That the Speaker be requested to inform the Honorable John D. Long, E. R. Hoar, and Samuel C. Cobb, committee of citizens of Massachusetts, of the satisfaction with which this House has received their present of the portrait of the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop, Speaker of the Thirtieth Congress, and to assure them it shall be placed and preserved among those of the other distinguished men who, in times past, have presided over the House of Representatives.

Attest,

EDWARD MCPHERSON, *Clerk*.

SPEAKER'S ROOM, WASHINGTON,
6. 28. 82.

MESSRS. — I have the honor to enclose to you a resolution unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives on yesterday, expressing the satisfaction with which it has received your present of the portrait of the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, once Speaker of the House of Representatives, &c.

Yours with high esteem,

J. WARREN KEIFER.

Hon. JOHN D. LONG, }
Hon. E. R. HOAR, } *Committee, &c.,*
Hon. SAMUEL C. COBB, } *Boston.*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, June 29, 1882.

DEAR MR. COBB, — I forward the Resolution of the Federal House of Representatives, and Speaker Keifer's letter in the matter of the portrait of Mr. Winthrop.

Very truly yours,

JOHN D. LONG.

The RECORDING SECRETARY reported the death of a Corresponding Member, as follows: —

I have received, during the vacation, the news of the death of our oldest Corresponding Member, the senior upon the early roll of domestic associates. The Rev. Luther Halsey, D.D., died at Norristown, Pennsylvania, Oct. 29, 1880, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. Dr. Halsey was born at Schenectady, New York, Jan. 1, 1794, and was educated at Union College in that place, from which he graduated with the class of 1812. He began the study of medicine, but was led to change this profession for that of theology. He was ordained over the Presbyterian Church in Blooming Grove, Orange County, New York, and spent some years in a success-

ful pastorate there. In 1824 he was chosen professor of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Natural History, in the College of New Jersey, at Princeton; which position he resigned in 1829, at the call of the General Assembly of his church, to succeed the Rev. Dr. Janeway in the professorship of theology in the Western Theological Seminary, established at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, two years before. He was appointed to the chair of Ecclesiastical History and Church Polity in the Theological Seminary at Auburn, New York, in 1837, and resigned that place in 1844, to resume the pastoral charge of the Blooming Grove church. From 1847 to 1850 he acted as instructor of Church History in the Union Theological Seminary of New York City. In 1878 he accepted the office of *Emeritus* Lecturer on Practical Theology in the Allegheny Seminary, and delivered at least one course of lectures there. But he had retired from the active duties of life. He received the degree of D.D. from Princeton College in 1831.

Dr. Halsey was elected a Corresponding Member of this Society in 1837, at the suggestion of President Timothy Alden.*

Mr. DEXTER continued:—

I have the pleasure of communicating copies of a few letters, written by Henry Wheaton, afterward the learned author of the "Elements of International Law," from France and England to his father, Mr. Seth Wheaton, of Providence, Rhode Island. Mr. Henry Wheaton was at the time these letters were written a very young man,—he completed his twentieth year during this visit to Europe. But his education, as was the custom of that day, had been hastened. He had already graduated from Brown University, and nearly completed the required term of three years in the law office of Nathaniel Searle in his native city, when his father gave him the unusual opportunity of going abroad for the advantages of foreign travel and study in the spring of 1805. He landed at St. Nazaire, at the mouth of the Loire, early in July, and, before going to Paris, spent some weeks at Poitiers, where he perfected his knowledge of the language, and attended diligently the tribunals of justice, of which there were several at that place. He crossed the Channel in November, and passed several months in London, where he was in the way of attending the impeachment trial of Lord Mel-

* There is a notice of Dr. Halsey in the New York "Observer" of Nov. 11, 1880. — Eds.

ville, and where he heard many decisions in the Court of Admiralty of cases affecting our commerce as neutrals. This sojourn in London and attendance on the English courts bore fruit, perhaps, in his earliest legal treatise, the "Digest of the Law of Maritime Captures and Prizes," published at New York in 1815.

These letters possess a good deal of interest, and will be a valuable contribution to our Proceedings. The copies were given to me by Mr. Wheaton's surviving daughter, Mrs. Charles C. Little, to whom the Society will be indebted for the privilege of printing them.

PAIMBŒUF, July 11, 1805.

MY DEAR FATHER, — I have the pleasure to inform you that we arrived at the mouth of the Loire on the 6th instant, and anchored in the morning at St. Nazaire. The length of our passage is attributable to the calms and adverse winds which accompanied us. Our ship drawing too much water to go up to Paimbœuf until a part of her cargo should be taken out, we came up here in a river boat yesterday, after being detained in the road of St. Nazaire three days at quarantine, to which all vessels coming from the States are subjected. The delay in procuring the verification of our passports at the Mayoralty of this place prevented our continuing the passage up to Nantes, which is ten or eleven leagues from this place; so that I am obliged to wait until eleven o'clock this morning for the departure of the barge, which will arrive at Nantes at four or five. In the mean time I am enabled to write you by the ship —, which sails this day for New York.

Nothing materially interesting happened during the voyage excepting that we were boarded by the British frigates "Topaze" and "Ceres," a few days before our arrival, and treated politely. The officers informed us of the arrival of the Rochefort squadron in France, and of the departure of the Toulonese, which sailed three months since, and that they were in great anxiety for the security of Jamaica, there having been a rumor that it was taken. I enjoyed very good health during the passage, and was comfortably situated, Captain Steel being very kind and attentive to me.

St. Nazaire is a wretched village, situated on the north side of the river, and inhabited by fishermen and peasants whose appearance presents nothing enviable to an inhabitant of America. All vessels drawing more than eighteen feet of water are obliged to remain there and lighten previously to going up to Paimbœuf. There were about eight ships at anchor in the road, — viz., Americans, Swedes, Danes, and Prussians, — some of which are loading with grain for Portugal, although this business is nearly finished, the scarcity having diminished in that country. The Loire is about three or four miles wide here, and presents on its banks an uninterrupted view of fields of grain preparing for the sickle, interspersed here and there with small groves of wood

and patches of vines. There is a great abundance of the fruits of the season, viz., cherries, pears, apricots, gooseberries, and currants; and it is said that the vines present the prospect of the greatest vintage that has been known for several years. This you know will be a misfortune of the most distressing nature to the proprietors and *vignerons*, by rendering the wine so cheap. Bread is three sols the pound (French); beef seven or eight sols, and excellent, though esteemed dear. A common laborer gets from fifteen to five and twenty sols per day; a carpenter, fifty sols.

I hope you will excuse this scrawl, it being written in haste and with such miserable pens and ink as I could procure in the *auberge* where I lodge. I shall write you more at length, and I hope more at my ease, from Nantes. In the mean time my love to my mother and sisters; and assure them that I bear them all in remembrance, and that no distance of time or place will ever efface them from my heart. Assure Martha and all our friends that they are not forgotten, and inform Uncle Levi that I shall write him from Nantes.

I remain, in haste, your affectionate son,

H. W.

NANTES, July 16, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,—I wrote you by the way of New York from Paimbœuf, informing you of my safe arrival and good health, the continuance of which I am happy to confirm by this opportunity, and I think the voyage and the change of air will prove of lasting advantage to my constitution. Since my arrival here I have been very politely treated by Mr. Carmichael, to whom my uncle and Mr. G. W. Murray gave me letters. I shall remain here until the 19th, for the sake of going in the diligence with a young gentleman who came out passenger with us, and who departs for Bordeaux on that day. In the mean time I am losing nothing by this delay, for I employ the interval in the examination of such objects in the city and its vicinity as are worthy of attention, in company with a young man who writes in Mr. C.'s office, and whom he has introduced to me for this purpose. I have been to Indret, an island two leagues below Nantes, for the purpose of viewing the national foundry of cannon there, which is said to be the first in France. It was established by Mr. Wilkinson, an Englishman, and son-in-law to Dr. Priestley, and is extensive in its works and curious in its machinery. The boring is executed both by means of water and horses; by which last also the turning of the brass pieces is executed. From this place we walked three miles into the country to a vineyard of red wine, which we found in a flourishing state. There is a prospect of a very great vintage this season,—a misfortune to the proprietors, to whom the wine will be as water; and to the laboring people, who in the years when it is cheap intoxicate themselves and neglect their affairs. There has been a most extraordinary salubrity in the air and regularity in the weather since we arrived. The ground is, however, parched up with the drought, and the grass withered by it, although it is not by many degrees so warm as in America at the

same season,—at least, if I may judge by my own feelings. The country is cultivated most highly, and appears like one vast garden, interspersed here and there with groves and meadows. I shall write you more in detail by a less circuitous conveyance, and desire you will not omit any opportunity of informing me as to the situation of the family and of our friends, and of continuing your paternal advice. I was advised when in New York to go to some provincial town and spend some time previously to seeing Paris. Should I conclude to adopt this plan after my arrival at Bordeaux, the lateness of the season would seem to preclude the possibility of examining things properly at Paris before my return from England. You will communicate your sentiments on this head by the first opportunity, and I shall never be so well satisfied as in following your advice.

My love to my mother, sisters, and brother,—and in one word to all with us. Assure them I bear them always in remembrance, and yourself that I remain your dutiful son,

HENRY WHEATON.

Mr. S. WHEATON, Providence.
Via Norfolk.

BORDEAUX, July 30, 1805.

DEAR SIR,—I embrace with eagerness a direct opportunity of writing you from this place, which is offered me by the departure of Messrs. Aborn & Jackson's brig, Captain Shaw, for Providence direct. I arrived here in the diligence, from Nantes, on the 26th, much less fatigued by the journey than I had been taught to expect. You will have received before this reaches you the letters which I wrote you from that place. I have little more to add, excepting that I experienced until the moment of my departure the kind hospitality of Mr. Carmichael, who desired me to send you and family his respects when I should write. As soon as I arrived here I presented myself to M. Pelletreau, to whom I received letters from friends in New York, and by whom as well as by Mme. Pelletreau and family I was received in the kindest manner. Those whom I consulted at New York, and all those with whom I have conversed on the subject in this country, have advised my proceeding to some provincial town and residing there a short time previous to going to Paris. M. Pelletreau has recommended Poitiers for this purpose, as being a place agreeable, healthy, and peopled by inhabitants who speak the French language in its utmost purity. It also possesses another advantage above all others, viz., that I shall there have an opportunity of hearing some of the most eminent advocates in France, it being the seat of a tribunal of appeal from the tribunals of a number of departments. He will furnish me with letters to one or two of the principal of them, and will procure me the advantage of boarding at an economical rate in a private family. I have for these reasons concluded to proceed immediately to Poitiers and improve the advantages which the situation offers. This arrangement being adopted, it would seem impossible to see Paris to my profit this season, more especially if I wish to travel through any part of the Netherlands or Holland. Should this be con-

cluded, it will probably be the best arrangement to take passage from this port for London at the end of October, and return to France by the route of Holland early in the spring, see Paris, and embark for America. Should you wish any change in these dispositions, you will of course inform me by letter, and they shall be executed as far as the circumstances of the time when I shall receive your advice will admit.

The city of Nantes is finely built of white stone, and the new part is tolerably regular. The quays are convenient, and it is connected by the Loire with a fine interior country; its inhabitants are enterprising, and a number of merchants from the blockaded ports have retreated here for the purpose of continuing their business; but its commerce does not flourish, and there are many indigent people. At the same time and in the midst of this embarrassment, the manners of the young people are excessively dissipated, and many of them resort to gaming-houses, which are authorized by government, which profits in its revenue by the demoralization of the people. Notwithstanding these circumstances and notwithstanding they have suffered more than the inhabitants of any other city of France by the Revolution, the inhabitants proceed on the journey of life with thoughtlessness and gayety. The country between Nantes and Bordeaux is not the finest portion of France; but it seemed to me, with the exception of La Vendée and the low lands of La Rochelle, to be a great garden. Northward of the Charente the wheat and vines are intermingled; a few leagues to the southward of that river the cultivation of maize commences; from thence to Guienne these objects of cultivation variegates the prospect in the most delightful manner; but as you approach the Garonne the corn ceases almost entirely, and one continual vineyard presents itself to the eye. The vines in this part of the country are higher than to the northward, and are supported by rods. There is the prospect of an extraordinary vintage this season, and the harvest of corn is very productive. Casks for the disposition of the wine are very dear, and the peasantry may drink it like water. The last season was also uncommonly productive in wine, and M. P. informs me he still keeps the brandy he then made from an estate of his own near Rochefort, and that those who sell make only a trifling income from their estates. In the midst of this plenty the price of labor is very high, and the situation of the laboring class must of course be generally comfortable. I am assured that the peasantry are much better fed and clothed at present than before the Revolution, and are in every respect bettered in their circumstances, except in relation to the *conscription*, which is horribly distressing to their domestic happiness; the young men at the age of twenty being liable to march, although not always all called for, and their fathers and mothers being liable in the penalty of two thousand francs for their appearance. The manner in which every thing in this country is built of stone is very striking to me. The houses in the cities and towns, the quays and bridges, the houses in the country, and the barns, and every shed are built of stone and covered with tiles. This appearance of durability and of security from fire leads me to regret that this mode of building cannot be adopted in the United

States, where the foundations of an empire are laying, but without much more durable habitations for the greater part of the inhabitants than Tartar tents. Until the custom of building in wood is laid aside with us, the progress of the industry of every generation in accumulating capital to be employed in agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, will be arrested and turned towards the reconstruction of their habitations ; whereas a nation which is obliged to rebuild not oftener than once in a century, and whose buildings require not extraordinary but only constant reparations, is enabled to turn its industry into more useful channels.

Bridges which are intended for durability have in all countries been built of stone ; but the invention of iron bridges seems likely to supersede these. A very superb one has been thrown over the Seine at Paris lately, and we observed them constructing one across the Sevrès in La Vendée. It is said they cost one third less than those of stone. If so, they are the bridges for America.

The genius of the present government of France seems more favorable to industry and improvement than any other it has had since the Revolution. In La Vendée I observed innumerable *châteaux* and houses destroyed by the different parties in that terrible war. Even whole villages have been destroyed. But roads are opening by the government, the houses are rebuilding, and the foundations of a new city laid in the centre of this unhappy province, to be called *Napoleon*. Indeed, the name of the Emperor is now attached to every thing. While I was at Nantes the name of Place *Egalité* was solemnly changed to that of Place *Impériale*, the equestrian statue of Bonaparte in his imperial robes exhibited in the hall of the municipality, and the imperial eagle elevated. While on the road from Nantes to Bordeaux we slept at Rochefort, and the next morning we took the opportunity of visiting the port, which we were permitted to do by going with our *aubergiste*, who was responsible for us. Although one of the smallest dock-yards the French have, the extent of the magazines is very great, their contents immense, and vast quantities of cannon, mortars, shot, and anchors lying on the ground. Several corvettes are building and one ship of sixty-four guns in the dry-dock. This dock is beautifully constructed of stone, the bottom and sides adapted to the shape of the vessel, and the whole perfectly dry. The squadron having sailed again, there were no ships of any consequence in port. Several hundred galley-slaves, with their mark of *honorable* distinction, and chained two and two, are employed here at labor. Rochefort is an unhealthy place, the inhabitants being subject to fevers occasioned by the low ground in the vicinage of the city. Bordeaux is almost incomparably superior to Nantes in almost every important particular. Finely situated for commerce, elegantly built, and with many spacious and convenient streets, it is regarded as the second city in France. Connected with the South and with the Mediterranean by the canal of Languedoc, it invites to itself more commercial advantages than any other port in the country.

My love to my mother, and assure her she is not forgotten ; for, if

any thing was wanting to remind me of her, the not discovering any one here to fill her place would be sufficient. My sisters will receive the same assurances, and I request my respects to all our friends.

I remain your dutiful son,

HENRY WHEATON.

SETH WHEATON, Providence.

POITIERS, Aug. 18, 1805.

DEAR SIR, — I take up my pen to inform you that I arrived here Sunday, the 8th instant, at night. The next day I was recommended to a place to board by the gentleman to whom M. Pelletreau had recommended me, and where I have the advantages of the instruction of the gentleman of the house and of the use of his library. I have received every attention from those with whom I have been made acquainted, that can render my situation agreeable and my residence profitable. I have made such progress in the language that I can make known all my wants, and that I can speak on any common topic of conversation *with the aid of explanations*, though I do not pretend to say with much propriety or regard to grammatical rules. The attention for which the French are so remarkable in this respect, contributes not a little to my improvement, and I hope with the addition of the period I may spend at Paris next spring to be able to speak with tolerable propriety. That part of Guienne which I have seen in my last journey is equally fertile and well cultivated with that which I had seen before. The grand route to Paris passes the Garonne and the Dordogne by two ferries, which are well maintained; and the road is superbly built, for the most part paved. Although the country on this side the Garonne is mostly in vineyards, yet it is not here that are produced the best *wines of Bordeaux*, but on the other side of the river in Medoc, a little strip of country between that and the sea, the produce of which is computed to be worth, one year with another, five or six millions of livres. The Province of Angoumois, into which we enter next on the route to Paris, is fertile and has many vineyards. Angoulême is situated, in a most singular and picturesque manner, on a high hill, the base of which is washed by the Charente,—here an insignificant stream, although at Rochefort it floats the navies of France. Poitou is in general very poor, great quantities of land being uncultivated and Nature having been very illiberal to it in the article of soil. Besides these causes, it has no connection with the sea; the navigation of the Charente commencing at Angoulême, and that of the Vienne at Chatellerault. You may therefore suppose that there is little trade in Poitiers, which is in fact the case. Although the town contains twenty thousand inhabitants, there are only two commercial houses, and a few fabrics of woollens. The town is the worst built I have ever seen, being very ancient, and the streets very narrow and crooked. It is perfectly quiet, and the inhabitants are very devout, all the exercises of the Catholic religion being performed here with great attention. A person who did not know that a Revolution had happened in France would certainly not discover it from the appearance of things here: it

is seldom the subject of conversation, and things go on as though it had not happened. The government appears to be as strong as any in the world; its orders are executed without a murmur of disapprobation, and nothing but the voice of applause is heard on the part of the public. It is the general opinion that things are much better situated in all respects than at any period of the Revolution. The interior is perfectly quiet, justice regularly administered, the public revenues regularly collected, and the payment regularly made. As to the question whether the nation has gained or lost in common happiness, there are as many answers to it as persons to whom it is proposed. But all agree in stating that the condition of the peasantry has been much improved by that event; that they are better fed and clothed, better paid, and that the land is better cultivated. On the other hand, the condition of the proprietors has certainly deteriorated; many of them have been stripped of all their possessions, and the value of the possessions of others has much diminished. The situation of the commercial part of the community is but too well known. It seems to be the better opinion that the manufactures are not so flourishing as before the Revolution. The interior troubles, the war, and the vast destruction of capital and credit, have given them a blow from the effects of which it will cost them a long period to recover. Provisions are plenty, and the ensuing vintage will produce wine enough to supply the want occasioned by several bad vintages in case they should happen. The common bread which is eaten by the mass of the people is $1\frac{1}{2}$ sols the pound (French), and the finest bread $2\frac{1}{2}$; meat is 8 or 10 sols the pound; a good pair of shoes costs 5 livres; a good hat, a Louis d'or. Fuel is very dear, and is computed to have doubled the price in twenty years. The finest fruits are in the greatest abundance; such as prunes, peaches, pears, apricots, and figs. A laborer in the country is paid twenty or twenty-five sols *per diem*, with the addition of his maintenance. In all the towns and on the road I have encountered beggars, and the streets of Poitiers are infested with them.

The army is said to be in the best condition, and is every year augmented in its numbers. The conscription is one of the most oppressive and vexatious circumstances of which the people have a right to complain. All the male population between the ages of twenty and twenty-four is included in the conscription; the number of men for which the government has occasion is divided among the departments each year in ratio of their population, and the share of each department is taken out of the whole number included in the conscription by lot. Exemption can be procured in no other way than by purchasing a man, which cannot be done without a very considerable expense. I saw on the road to Poitiers a number of young conscripts tied together with cords, and driven by an officer on horseback attended with a *gendarme*. They were of those who had not presented themselves at the depot at the fixed time. The conscription is enforced at present with great severity, and an Imperial decree has just appeared for forming in the interior what are called companies of reserve. . . . Vast numbers of French and Austrian troops are collected and collecting on the frontier

in Italy; two French engineers have been arrested at Venice; and the journals at Milan threaten that in case Austria breaks the peace the war will not be long, and another will be signed at Vienna which will never be broken. Notwithstanding these facts, the opinion of well-informed people here is that the peace will be preserved. You will have doubtless heard before this that the Emperor is at Boulogne; that he has reviewed the troops there; that the troops are embarked on board the fleet in the Texel; of the battle between the combined fleet (on its return to Europe) and the English; that another squadron has sailed from Rochefort; the fears of the English concerning the descent, &c. On the last subject people have been so often deceived that they seem to have no opinion but only to wait the movement of events. All seem confident that if they can accomplish a landing on the British shore the conquest of the island is certain.

Poitiers is the seat of a tribunal of first instance, of a criminal tribunal, tribunal of commerce, and tribunal of appeal from the tribunals of four departments. This last is at present in session, and of course I have the advantage of hearing every day some of the most eminent advocates of the country, in addition to the improvement in the language, which is spoken in its greatest purity by the advocates. M. Pelletreau gave me a letter to one of the judges; but he unfortunately retires into the country in a day or two, so that I shall not have the pleasure of much of his society. He gave me an invitation to come to his country house, which is in the vicinity of Saintes (about twenty leagues); but I declined accepting it, not wishing to make myself inconvenient to any one, though at the same time not doubting the sincerity of his politeness, because he is a particular friend of M. Pelletreau.

Poitiers is also the seat of a *lyceum*, one of the seminaries of education established at every seat of a tribunal of appeal, of which there are thirty in the Empire. The students are all dressed in military uniform, march to the sound of the tambour, and the elder ones are exercised in the use of arms. Every year at the end of this month an examination takes place, attended with public exercises and a distribution of prizes. There are nearly a hundred places of students boarded and educated at the expense of government.

That the present establishment of the Catholic religion is not so splendid as the ancient, you will readily conceive when you are told that there were formerly fifty churches and thirty convents in this city, and that at present there are only five or six churches. But the people are devout, and the ceremonies of religion are performed with great attention.

Since it has been concluded best that I should not see Paris this summer, it will probably be most advantageous to embark in the month of October for London, and return early in the spring by way of the North, since I should not wish to leave Europe without seeing Holland. If there is any thing in this arrangement that you do not approve, you will of course write, as I wrote you from Bordeaux, by Captain Shaw; and I wait with some degree of impatience letters, not having received any since I left home.

My love to family and respects to all friends, and be assured I remain your affectionate son,

H. WHEATON.

PARIS, Oct. 10, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR, — I had the pleasure of writing you under date of the 7th instant by way of Bordeaux, and of acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated 4th of August past. In my other letter you will have been informed of the circumstances which induced me to leave Poitiers and to come to the capital for the purpose of seeing its objects of curiosity. But having another opportunity of writing you by the politeness of Mr. —, who, the Secretary of Legation informs me, is to be the bearer of despatches to our government, I could not omit this opportunity of adding another word, as possibly the other letter will not reach you. Having nearly completed my review of the principal objects of attention which the capital embraces, as well as its environs, I shall leave it within a week for Rotterdam.

As to the question of returning to France in the spring and taking passage in one of its ports for the States, I can be better able to judge of it with the assistance of your advice, which you will undoubtedly give me in your first letters. But at present I cannot think it will be profitable in proportion to the expense. As to French, I speak it well enough to be understood, but cannot tell how rapidly I may forget it in an absence from this country. I have seen enough of the country to form a general idea of it, and could not see any more of the interesting objects in the capital, nor derive any more advantage from a residence here, than I shall have seen of them and derived of my residence, unless it was extended to a period of three or four months, so as to have the advantage of attending lectures. As, however, the same advantages may be had in London, there remains nothing in this capital which can induce me to return to the country. I shall be able, however, to judge of these matters better in the spring, and with the assistance of your advice.

Here, as I informed you by my other letter, I found it impossible to get into a respectable private family, and was consequently obliged to go into a hotel; in the other capital, I hope, with the assistance of a friend, to have this important advantage. If I should undertake to conjecture the cause of its impracticability here, I should attribute it to the general corruption of manners which renders people distrustful of one another, formal, and unwilling to share with strangers the comforts of their domestic society, or to make them associates in its secrets, its misfortunes, and perhaps its vices. Add to this that, on the other hand, those who come to Paris to spend a short time prefer to live in a hotel rather than in a private family, where they must be obliged to conform themselves to the rules there prevailing, and to live in a more regular manner than most of the travellers who come to this capital wish to do.

The fine arts are carried to great perfection here at present on account of the encouragement given them by government, and of the

important advantages that Paris presents for their cultivation. A taste for their beauties is very generally diffused. Even the furniture is at present modelled after the antique: chairs turned on the arms with griffins, tripods for tables, and the handirons with sphinxes' heads are to be seen in all well-furnished houses. The gallery of statues and paintings is open only twice a week for the inhabitants of Paris, the other days being reserved for strangers and artists; great numbers of the last being continually employed in copying the paintings and designing after them and the statues. I was present the other day at a public sitting of the National Institute, at which were distributed the grand prizes of architecture, sculpture, painting, engraving on precious stones, and music. The effect produced by the enthusiasm excited by these annual rewards of merit must be a great improvement in the fine arts. The subject of architecture was a plan for a mansion to be built by twelve families united together; that of sculpture, Evander going out to meet the dead body of his son; that of painting, the death of Demosthenes; that of engraving on precious stones, the genius of the art presenting an engraved stone to the Emperor. The productions which had gained the prizes were exhibited, and their authors crowned in the midst of the acclamations of spectators.

You will be pleased to communicate this letter to Uncle Levi; it is addressed to him and you. My love and respects to all our friends, and I hope to meet your next letter in the island. Be assured of the respect and affection with which I remain your son,

HENRY WHEATON.

MR. S. WHEATON, Providence, R. I.

LONDON, NOV. 7, 1805.

MR. SETH WHEATON, Providence.

DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure of informing you that I arrived here a week since, after a short and pleasant passage from Rotterdam. In the journey from Paris to that place, I was obliged to go by the way of Maestricht and Liege, instead of Antwerp, which is the ordinary route, on account of the naval constructions which are going on in that port. This is a regulation at present applicable to all foreigners.

On my arrival here I presented myself to Mr. Charles Murray, with my letter from uncle. On requesting his advice as to a private family to board with, he gave me an invitation to live with him. Although this was something I had no right to expect, yet the frankness of his manner prevented my refusing his kind offer, which also was not suggested by any hint of my own wishes for the purpose. I find my situation very agreeable here; as, besides the advantage of living in so pleasing a family, I have that of the use of Mr. Murray's books and of his advice and assistance in all the objects of my pursuit.

I find I have arrived precisely at the moment of the commencement of the term of the courts in Westminster Hall, which began the day before yesterday, and will continue a month; which I shall of course frequently visit. One of our ships was condemned yesterday in the

Court of Admiralty.* I should have been present, but was confined to the house with a cold. It appears that this condemnation went upon the ground with most of those which have lately occurred. It appears to be the determination of the government of this country to prevent entirely the carriage of the produce of their enemies' colonies to the mother country in our neutral bottoms, even though the presumption is that the property has *bona fide* changed owners, and become that of the neutral shippers. The alleged motive for the present assertion of this principle on the part of Great Britain, is that the resources of her enemies are kept alive by the intercourse between them and their colonies, even more advantageous to them than in time of peace. Such is the substance of the reasonings contained in a pamphlet called "War in Disguise; or, the Frauds of Neutral Flags,"† and which is supposed to contain the governmental ideas on the subject. What effect these events will have on the public mind in the States I cannot say, but should suppose that much moderation should be manifested in the measures which may be taken on the occasion, while at the same time our determination not to abandon our neutral rights should be clearly shown.

I expected to find here a letter from you, with a credit on London; but I have enough of funds to answer my present wants, and you will doubtless have taken measures to supply me. The amount of the funds which I had in the hands of MM. Pelletreau, Bellamy & Company was 3,520 francs, and the amount of my expenses up to this time has been 2,598 francs. This exceeds what I had reason to expect, yet I made use of every economy in my power at the time. Had I the same ground to go over again, my experience would enable me very much to reduce it in many instances. I mentioned above that I had taken cold since my arrival here. The climate seems well calculated to favor this complaint and its consequent disorders, and it seems to be the universal opinion both of the physicians as well as others that the best security against them consists in wearing flannel next the skin. I am prevented from adopting this counsel only by your opinion, which I remember has always been against it. You will be pleased to give me your reasons on this head, although I shall probably be obliged to determine relative to it before the receipt of it.

You will present my respects to Mr. Eddy and Mr. Searle, and

* The case of "The Anna" was heard November 6, but judgment was not given until the 15th, when the ship was released. We do not find the condemnation of an American vessel on the 6th in the Admiralty Court. See 5 Robinson (Admiralty Reports), 373. — EDS.

† The author of this pamphlet, which passed through several editions in England, and was reprinted in America, was James Stephen. He had been editor, and parliamentary reporter of the "Morning Chronicle"; had held an appointment in the prize court at St. Christopher, and became, after his return to England, a prominent advocate in the Court of Admiralty, and a member of Parliament. To him are ascribed the suggestion and arrangement of the system of the continental blockade. His pamphlet was answered in this country by Gouverneur Morris, and by President Madison. — EDS.

inform them that I shall write them by the next opportunity, not being able by this, the ship sailing to-morrow morning.

With love to my mother and sisters, grandmother, and to Martha, I remain your affectionate son,

HENRY WHEATON.

P. S. I received one letter from you while in France, — that under date of the 4th of August. I wish to have the pleasure of hearing from you as frequently as possible. You will undoubtedly have received before this reaches you the news of Lord Nelson's victory over the combined fleets off Cadiz, in which the enemy lost eighteen ships of the line taken and destroyed, and the British admiral was killed.

LONDON, Jan. 6, 1806.

MR. SETH WHEATON, Providence.

MY DEAR SIR, — I embrace the present opportunity of informing you of the continuance of my health and agreeable sojourn here. I have filled up most of my time in visiting the courts, in which I have been assisted (as indeed in everything else) by the kind offices of Mr. M. As they are now in vacation, I fill up my leisure in visiting some of the principal curiosities of London, which are however by no means so interesting or numerous as those of Paris. We were the other day on board Captain Shaw's ship in the London docks at Wapping. These, with the West India docks in the Isle of Dogs, and the East India (which are not yet completed), are one vast monument of the industry and commerce of this great city. Indeed, it appears throughout like one vast exchange and warehouse.

What I have seen of them gives me a high idea of the administration of justice in the courts of justice in this country. Learning, purity, and impartiality seem to preside in them; and they are (as appears to me) in every particular superior to their neighbors on the Continent. Indeed, the intervention of the jury alone would make them decidedly superior to the tribunals of France, where, except in criminal cases, everything is determined by the judge. To which it is to be added that these bodies are but new in their institution, have not yet learned their business, or even the very laws they are to administer; besides that they are not so perfectly free from all suspicion of corruption. In this my opinion of the English tribunals I do not mean however to include the Court of Admiralty, which, though proceeding according to the law of nations, is confessedly under a political direction and governed in its decisions by considerations of state. I am unable to add any thing to the idea which seems to prevail in the States of the injustice of its recent attacks on our neutral commerce, excepting that it is felt with equal force by all the friends of real justice here. From the tenor of the President's message, which we have seen, it would seem that, should the views of Congress accord with his on the subject, some vigorous measures will be taken to bring this government to reason. I have understood that there are grounds for

believing our difficulties with Spain to be settled at Madrid, so that the Dons will escape that chastisement they so well deserve for their tyranny and degradation in both quarters of the globe.

I have endeavored to follow your advice as to shunning political discussions, avoiding conversation of that nature when practicable, and silently assenting to the ideas when not. This, however, is not easy to do, almost every important subject of inquiry being more or less connected with politics in the awful times when we live.

You will undoubtedly have taken measures to supply me with such funds as you may think necessary for my expenses in England. At present, however, I am in no want, having as I told you something remaining of my French funds. I have agreed with Mr. M. for my board at the rate of two guineas and a half the week, which I hope you will approve of, as I have learned upon inquiry that it cannot be had for a little or any less in a respectable family; and the society of his will fully compensate any small difference. The great expense of living, which is in other respects equal here, will naturally induce me to render my residence here as short as possible. After the next term of the courts is finished, I shall be at leisure to take a tour to such parts of the country as may be thought advantageous.

On the question of returning to France I shall wait your commands. The advantages and inconveniences of the project are equally obvious. You will recollect I wrote you from Paris rather unfavorably to the project; but later thoughts have induced me in some measure to alter my opinion on the subject. The expense will doubtless appear to you, as it does to me, an important objection. Your commands I shall receive with pleasure, being quite indifferent on the subject. I shall probably receive an answer from you to this letter at the end of March or beginning of April, when I shall prepare to embark for the States or cross the channel. In case the intercourse is not, however, as direct as it has been, I shall not undertake it, whatever may be your opinion.

My love to my mother and sisters, to my grandmother, to my Aunt Jackson, Uncle Samuel, and all our friends generally; and be assured I remain your affectionate son,

H. W.

P. S. I have sent to my sisters a few trifling new-year's day presents, which I hope they will receive with this letter. In case I do not cross over to France, I shall probably not embark from here before May.

LONDON, Jan. 30, 1806.

Mr. SETH WHEATON, Providence.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have written you *via* New York by the ship "Remittance," Captain Low, who sailed the middle of the month, but was prevented leaving the Downs until three days since; and although I have little to add, I take this opportunity of informing you of the continuance of my health in tolerable condition, and of my progress in

pursuit of that information which induced me to visit Europe. In this object I am aided by Mr. Murray by every means in his power, and his attentions to me demand my warmest acknowledgment and gratitude. By the month of April I shall probably have completed the attainment of the principal objects which demand my attention in the metropolis, and shall be at leisure to make some little excursions in the interior for the purpose of acquiring a general idea of its condition, and then Edinburgh and Glasgow, or return home by the way of France, as you may advise me. I have already written you for your advice and commands on this head, and which I expect to receive in April in order to govern my movements. I have already informed you that I had agreed with Mr. M. for my board at the rate of two guineas and a half per week, which, as I before stated, is as low as I could board in any private family. What will be the amount of my other expenses I cannot say, because I do not know what will be the extent of my journeys in the interior; but I shall certainly endeavor to exercise all due discretion on this head.

You will doubtless have learned long before this reaches you of the humiliation of Austria, and the change in the government of this country which is about to take place. The united parties of Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox will undoubtedly come into power; but what will be the effect of this revolution seems to be a subject of great public doubt and division. I saw Mr. Monroe on Sunday last; his family are at Bath; the feeble state of Mrs. Monroe's health preventing her from remaining in town. He informed me that our difficulties with this country would probably be amicably settled; but he was, as you may conclude, totally silent as to the manner or the actual state of the negotiation.

Be pleased to give my compliments and regards to Mr. Eddy and Mr. Searle, to whom I have written by Captain Low; to Uncle and Aunt Jackson, to Martha, and all our friends. My love to my mother and sisters (to whom I have sent some trifling presents by Captain Low), and to my grandmother, all whom I hope this letter will find in health as well as yourself, and accept assurances of the affectionate regard of

H. W.

MR. SETH WHEATON, Providence.

LONDON, March 2, 1806.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have already had the pleasure of informing you that I had reached the land of our forefathers before the date of your last letter of the 28th November, 1805, and that I found myself comfortably situated in the family of Mr. Murray. I have since made considerable progress in accomplishing the objects of my visit to this metropolis. It only remains that I should see something more of Parliament, the practice of which as well as its substantial business you know to be of great importance, as our legislative bodies are modelled after it, and refer to its forms as proved by experience to be adapted to the transaction of their business. In this I have not found so great facility as I could have wished, as it is difficult to gain ad-

mittance into the House of Commons without *paying*, and as it sits only in the evening, and is a very confined, unwholesome place. The impeachment of Lord Melville, which will soon be tried, I shall certainly not neglect, as it is an affair of intrinsic importance and will call forth the abilities of the great men of this nation.

I wait with some impatience your directions relative to my next movements; whether I shall return directly to America or by the way of France. You will also have remitted to defray my expenses in England in the mean time. I have a small sum left to defray my ordinary expenses, and Mr. M. will also supply me, as uncle has already written him for that purpose. I have still remaining in the hands of MM. Pelletreau & Co. a small balance of 513 francs, which I have not drawn for, on account of the possibility of my returning to France. In case that should be your wish, you will of course take measures to supply me with what may be necessary to accomplish it. You may be satisfied that I consult economy as much as is practicable consistently with the necessity of preserving a decent and moderate conformity with the manners of the society in which I find myself.

It is supposed that our negotiations with this government are proceeding with as much rapidity as the magnitude of the interests embraced by them will admit. And from the character of those who now hold the reins of government here, it is presumed there can be no doubt of a favorable result to them. I have seen Mr. Monroe; but, his family being out of town, I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing them. His interviews with Mr. Fox are frequent, and he speaks with confidence of the issue. In the mean time, however, the Prize Courts continue by their decrees to manifest a disposition not to recede from those doctrines upon the faith of which they have confiscated so much of our neutral property. The judgment of the Court of Appeals was delivered a few days since by Sir William Grant, at considerable length, in which the decree of the Admiralty on a constructive continued voyage was affirmed; and it was declared to have always been the policy and the right of this country to keep her enemies' colonies shut in time of war, and that all exceptions to this principle were to be considered as relaxations in favor of neutral commerce, and not to be extended by evasion beyond their strict limits. The book on this subject written in America and containing an argument against these doctrines is reprinting here, and will issue from the press in a day or two. Intelligence of the measures taken on your side of the water in this great crisis is also anxiously expected here, as they cannot fail to have much influence on the final result.*

* Sir William Grant was Master of the Rolls. The case must, we think, have been "The William," judgment in which, however, is dated in the Reports, March 11. The opinion is printed in 5 Robinson, 387-406.

Both Mr. Morris's and Mr. Madison's answers to "War in Disguise" were reprinted in London this spring. Mr. Madison's "Examination" contains considerable discussion of the continued voyage doctrine. There was also reprinted an American pamphlet favorable to the British views, by Phocion. This was written by William Smith, of South Carolina, who had been a member of Congress and United States Minister to Portugal. — EDS.

I trust that our little State already begins to feel the effects of a relief from that little, mean, insulating, and vicious policy which has so long depressed and brutalized her, and that the present opportunity of giving her a thorough reform and a constitutional government will not be lost.*

With my respects to Dr. Wheaton, Mr. Eddy, and Mr. Searle, and to our friends generally, my love to my mother and sisters, the anticipation of the pleasure of meeting whom renders my long absence less irksome, and to your mother,

I remain your affectionate son,

H. W.

Mr. DEXTER presented a gift from Mr. George S. Wright, of Boston, a small diary, the entries in which begin at Cambridge, March 23, 1775, and extend without interruption to July 19, at Scituate, when the end of the book (32 pages) is reached. On the outside covers there are inscriptions in hieroglyphics, or some system of shorthand, and unless the name of the writer is hidden in these inscriptions there is no name attached to the diary. Mr. Wright rescued the book from a barrel of waste on its way to the paper-mill.

From internal evidence it appears that this journal was kept by Paul Litchfield, who was born at Scituate, March 12, 1752, the oldest of a family of twelve children. He graduated from Harvard College in the class of 1775, and gives in the diary a glimpse of the dispersed condition of the college at the beginning of the war. He himself went home, April 11, and made a visit to Cambridge, May 25, when he notes that he found his chamber "broken up, and several things missing, among which was Johnson's English Dictionary." Probably by that time some Continental soldiers were lodged in his room. Mr. Litchfield taught the Latin school in his native town this spring "in the room [place] of Mr. Turner." He enters in the diary the daily attendance of scholars. He afterward studied theology with Dr. Stephen West, of Stockbridge, and was ordained the first pastor of the church in

* We are indebted to our Corresponding Member, the Hon. John R. Bartlett, of Providence, for the following note :—

"Mr. Wheaton doubtless refers to the spirit which so long kept Rhode Island from adopting the United States Constitution, and which resisted every effort to adopt a State constitution. Arthur Fenner, who had been governor for fifteen years, was then just dead. No successor had been chosen, and Mr. Wheaton hoped that with a change of administration would come a change of policy; but all his hopes were disappointed. A son of Arthur Fenner became governor, and no change of policy took place. It took nearly forty years to obtain a constitutional form of government, and such other reforms as Mr. Wheaton desired." — Eds.

Carlisle, Nov. 7, 1781, the church having been formed only in the February preceding. He remained in this ministry forty-six years, and died in Carlisle, Nov. 7, 1827.

A few extracts from the diary are here printed:—

March 30 [Cambridge]. Cool and blustering. About 1,200 soldiers marched out to Roxbury, which gave an alarm to that and the neighboring towns, but they peaceably returned in a short time.

April 10. Pleasant. My horse brought by Benjamin Peakes. Two regiments of soldiers marched through Cambridge about two o'clock P.M. Settled with Biglow, Secretary to the speaking club: paid him 12/ 8½ in full. Recited Homer last.

April 11. Rode from Cambridge to Braintree in company with Otis and Sever, and from thence alone. Got home about five. Wind out and chilly, cold. Mr. Smith took his leave of the class.

April 19 [Scituate]. Something blustering and cool.* Visited and dined with Mr. Grosvenor. Went to the Harbour just before night. Returned home not till night.

April 20. Very early in the morning received the news of the engagement between the king's troops and the Americans at Concord

* It has generally been supposed that the day on which the battle of Concord and Lexington was fought was warm. Mr. Hudson, in his History of the latter town, says, "All accounts agree that the day was unusually warm for that season of the year" (p. 197); but gives no authorities. Stedman, the British historian, says that when the retreating troops were relieved by Earl Percy's detachment at the Monroe Tavern, "they were so much exhausted with fatigue that they were obliged to lie down for rest on the ground, their tongues hanging out of their mouths like those of dogs after a chase." But this statement does not necessarily imply hot weather. Dusty roads and an incessant struggle with an almost unseen and ever-increasing enemy might make the soldiers pant with fatigue and thirst. It is well understood, however, that the spring of 1775 was an early one. Dr. Belknap says, comparing it with the season of ten years later, in a letter to Mr. Hazard, April 16, 1785 ("Belknap Papers," vol. i. p. 330), "I had set posts for my fence, and had my garden made and sown by this time." And this Litchfield diary, in which the weather is generally observed, speaks of snow melting as it fell early in April, and uses the words *moderate, pleasant, warm, very warm*, of the days immediately preceding the 19th. That day appears, however, to have been chilly, at least in the morning. Dr. Belknap himself, noting the weather in his interleaved almanac for April 19, 1775, says, "fair, windy, cool, W." This was at Dover, New Hampshire. Mr. Frothingham, in his "Siege of Boston" (pp. 59, 84, n.) states that the morning at Lexington was chilly; and cites the diary of the Rev. Mr. Marrett (of Burlington), "fair, windy, and cold." The Rev. Mr. Emerson, of Concord, does not mention the weather in his account.

Our associate, the Rev. E. G. Porter, of Lexington, in answer to a question, writes, "The accounts agree that the early morning of the 19th of April was chilly, but pleasant, with a bright moon. From various sources, which I think are authentic, I have also the impression that as the day advanced it became much warmer, especially towards noon and in the afternoon. I remember asking Mr. Hudson once about this, and he said he had ample proof of its being a warm day from the families of the men who participated in the engagement. But, as you say, the excitement and fatigue may have made it seem warmer than it really was. The season was unusually forward, and the grass was high enough to wave in the breeze." — Eds.

the day before, upon which our men were ordered to appear in arms immediately. I was upon the guard on the third cleft* the night ensuing, and about eight o'clock took two Tories as they were returning from Marshfield, who were kept under guard that night. Exceeding windy.

April 21. About day took four Tories, and sprained my ankle. Then marched to the meeting-house with our prisoners. Got home before noon. Grew cloudy in the afternoon. All the companies but one marched for Marshfield. Guards kept all day; also in the night at divers places.

April 22. Cloudy and some rain. Men still kept in arms. Myself confined with a lame ankle.

April 23 [Sunday]. . . . Companies appeared in arms at the meeting-house.

April 25. Warm and very windy. Tories were taken and carried to Marshfield. Went to Marshfield myself; returned home after sunset.

May 10. . . . Men listed into the standing army.

May 11. Something cool. A day of humiliation and prayer. Mr. Mansfield prayed fore and afternoon. Mr. Grosvenor preached from first chapter of Lamentations, first and second verses. . . .

May 16. Warm and pleasant. . . . Fruit trees blossomed very thick. . . .

May 21 [Sunday]. Wind out. Clear in the forenoon, in the afternoon cloudy and cold. Just before meeting began in the morning, hearing the king's troops were landing near Hingham, the people in general dispersed, so that there was no meeting till the afternoon, when Mr. Grosvenor preached from the 107th Psalm, 6th verse. The occasion of the above alarm was this: about one hundred Regulars landed on Grape Island in order to get some hay.

May 31. Cloudy in the fore part of the day, and foggy. Something cloudy in the after part, also warm. School in the forenoon, scholars 24. Came home to dinner. First company of militia met and chose their officers: Noah Otis, Captain; William Vinal, First Lieutenant; myself, Second Lieutenant; I. Man, Ber. Bailey [?], Elisha Lit [Little?], and Michael Mort [or Moot?], Sergeants.

June 10. . . . A number of whale-boats went along the shore from the southward for the use of our army. . . .

June 15. . . . It is said that a number of troops have arrived at Boston.

June 17. Something warm. An almost continual firing heard all day, supposed to be near Boston. A large smoke arose and a fire seen in the evening. . . .

June 20. Cool. Various accounts about the fight on Saturday last.

June 29. . . . Signed to stand guard on the sea-shore.

* "The four cliffs, so well known to mariners, are all on the south of the Harbour, showing sandy fronts." Deane's "History of Scituate," p. 22. — Eds.

July 1. . . . Watched last night on the sea-shore with Ephraim Litchfield. Feel the want of sleep to-day. Mr. Tory [Torrey?] came to watch.

July 8. A very warm day. Labored some. In the afternoon the Royal Americans met and chose their officers. 1. Myself, Captain; 2. Isaiah Man, First Lieutenant; 3. John Otis, Second Lieutenant.

Admiral GEORGE HENRY PREBLE read an interesting letter which he had received from Sir Provo W. P. Wallis, who lives near Chichester, England, and is now in his ninety-second year. He is the last survivor of the officers who participated in the great naval battle between the "Shannon" and the "Chesapeake," June 1, 1813. In that action he was the second lieutenant of the English vessel, a young man of twenty-two, and after the death of Lieutenant Watt and the disabling of Captain Broke, the command of the "Shannon" and her prize devolved upon him. He carried both vessels into the harbor of his native town, Halifax. He visited Boston a second time, in charge of an English vessel, in 1826.

A request from the Bostonian Society, through its President, Curtis Guild, Esq., to retain for a longer time the portraits and other articles lent from this Society's Cabinet for the formal opening of the restored legislative halls in the Old State House, was referred to the Committee appointed at the June meeting to arrange that loan, with full powers.

Colonel T. W. HIGGINSON presented a photograph of a plan of the first parish in Lebanon, Connecticut, indorsed: "A plan of the first society in Lebanon, with the highways and buildings thereon, with the distance of each house from the Meeting House; also the centre of said society. Said Society contains 18,020 acres and 70 rods; 10,421 acres and 70 rods southerly of the pricked line, and 7,599 acres northerly of said line. Surveyed October and November, 1772, with the assistance of chainmen under oath, *per* Nathl. Webb, County Surveyor." This distance varies from a few rods to over five miles. The pricked line probably represents a line dividing the parish into two parts, recognized by the Society's vote as early as 1732. In that year there was a proposal to build a new meeting-house, and the old location was selected, with the agreement that the parishioners living north of a certain line should have their contributions refunded whenever they built a separate church for the north village.

This plan was doubtless prepared in connection with the above dispute about the situation of the parish meeting-house and the centre of population. The quarrel was an old one,

dating back nearly to the organization of the town in 1700. In June, 1772, the society voted, by the small majority of two, to take down the meeting-house and rebuild it at a point further north, nearer what was then the centre of population including the northern settlement, called Lebanon Village. The minority appealed to the General Assembly of the State, and at the October session of that body a committee was appointed on the matter. Their report, made at the May session ensuing, temporarily adjusted the dispute. But it broke out again later, and after serious disturbances approaching in character to a riot, the question was referred for final settlement to the Supreme Court. The whole "Meeting-House War," as it has been called, has a curious interest as showing the controlling part played by ecclesiastical matters in the New England towns.*

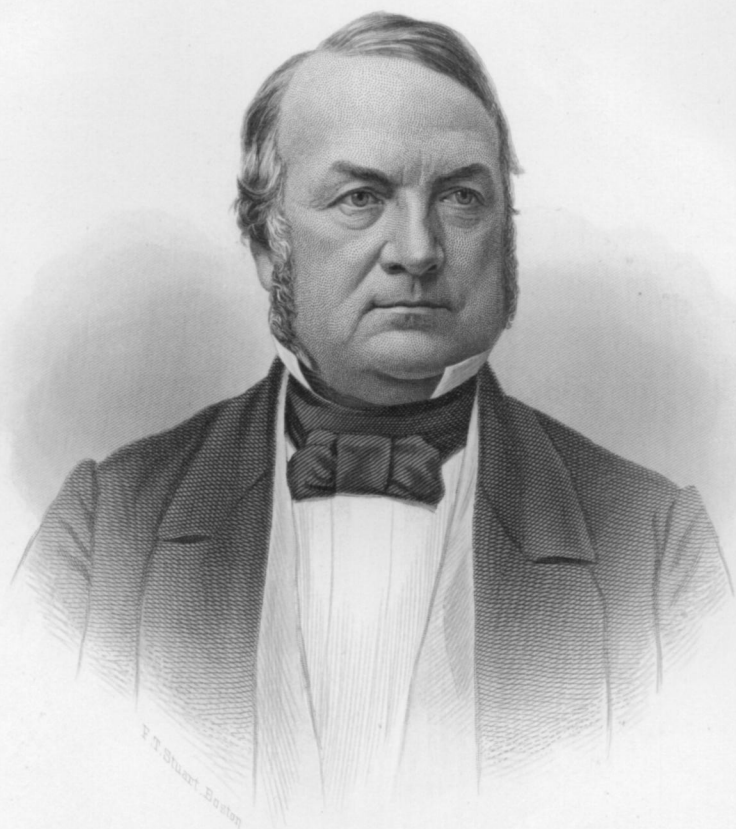
The original plan was found by Mr. Walter G. Kingsley, the present town clerk of Lebanon, in the house of Mr. William Beaumont, an aged resident of the town. This house is situated a little west of the point marked "centre" in the map, in what is now called Lebanon Centre. The photograph was made under the direction of Mr. Peter Thacher, of West Newton, Massachusetts, and at the expense of Professor Thacher, of Yale College, the latter a cousin of Mr. Beaumont.

The Rev. Dr. PAIGE said that he had seen a plan of the town of Hardwick, Massachusetts, made about fifty years ago, with the distances similarly marked.

A serial number of the Proceedings, bringing the record of the Society's meetings down to and including that of June, was presented by the Recording Secretary.

Mr. JUSTIN WINSOR communicated the following Memoir of the Hon. Solomon Lincoln, which he had been appointed to prepare for the Proceedings: —

* The particulars of this "Meeting-House War" may be found in Note G of Mr. Morgan's Appendix to the Rev. Mr. Hine's historical address, "Early Lebanon," pp. 71-84. — *Eds.*



Simon Lincoln

MEMOIR

OF THE

HON. SOLOMON LINCOLN.

BY JUSTIN WINSOR.

MR. LINCOLN came on all sides of early Puritan and Pilgrim stock. He at one time prepared the following account of his lineage : —

“Through my father’s line I was descended from Samuel Lincoln, who came to this country from Hingham, England, in 1637 and settled in Hingham, Massachusetts. Samuel, the emigrant, died May 26, 1690, leaving several children, of whom the oldest, Samuel, was baptized Aug. 25, 1650. He served in King Philip’s war, being in the Narragansett campaign of December, 1675; married Deborah, daughter of William Hersey of Hingham, and died in March, 1721, leaving several children, of whom the second was Jedediah, who was born Oct. 2, 1692, and died Sept. 23, 1783. This Jedediah married Bethiah, daughter of Enoch Whiton, of Hingham, and one of their sons was Enoch, who was father of Levi (H. C. 1772), Attorney-General of the United States; and Levi was in turn the father of Levi Lincoln (H. C. 1802), Governor of Massachusetts,* and of Enoch Lincoln, Governor of Maine.

“Another son of Jedediah and Bethiah was my grandfather, William Lincoln, who was born Aug. 5, 1729, and died Nov. 17, 1792. William’s wife was Mary, daughter of Ephraim Otis of Scituate. She died Sept. 12, 1773, in her thirty-seventh year. They had several children, among them the Rev. Henry Lincoln (H. C. 1786), and Solomon, my father, who was born Aug. 22, 1767, and died Dec. 21, 1831. My mother was Lydia, daughter of Jesse and Abigail (Barnes) Bates, of Hingham; and I, their youngest child, was born Feb. 28, 1804.† Through my mother, Lydia Bates, I trace my descent from Richard Warren, who came over in the ‘Mayflower’ in 1620, and from Robert Bartlett, who came in the ‘Ann’ in 1623, and married

* See Proceedings, vol. xi. p. 48.

† In Hingham.

Mary, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Warren. This Robert's daughter, Elizabeth, married Anthony Sprague, of Hingham, son of William Sprague, the first settler of that name. Anthony's daughter Sarah married Caleb Bates of Hingham, in 1716, and their son Caleb (who married a Hobart) was the father of Jesse Bates, and the latter's daughter Lydia was my mother; and through her I also trace descent from the Walleys, Allyns, and Otises of Barnstable; and again from the Lincolns of Hingham. I have other ancestors among the early settlers of Hingham, bearing the names of Hersey, Whiton, Barnes, and Hobart. All the Otises of Scituate and Barnstable were descendants of John Otis, one of the first settlers of Hingham. My ancestors in the male line have all lived in Hingham and have been farmers.*

As a child, Mr. Lincoln was for a while a pupil of the late Artemas Hale of Bridgewater, who at that time taught a public school in Hingham. The lad when under ten entered Derby Academy, and began his preparation for college under the Rev. Daniel Kimball (H. C. 1800), which was completed after leaving the academy in 1819, under the Rev. Joseph Richardson, then a minister in the town. He entered Brown University as a Sophomore and was graduated in 1822, in the same class with Alexis Caswell, later the president of that institution, Isaac Davis, and Jacob H. Loud. After teaching a grammar school for nearly a year in Falmouth, Massachusetts, he entered the office of Ebenezer Gay in Hingham, in November, 1823, as a student of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1826, and practised his profession with some interruptions till 1853. He served as United States Marshal from March, 1841, to December, 1844; as Master in Chancery for Plymouth County in 1842-43; and as Bank Commissioner from 1849 to 1853, when he finally abandoned the law, and became cashier of the Webster Bank in Boston, afterward the National Webster Bank, and was made president of the same in 1869. He retired from the latter office and from all active pursuits in February, 1876.

Meanwhile his services in fiduciary places, and in the affairs of his town, were not small. He was on its school committee from 1828 to 1830, and did some efficient work in improving the schools. He filled for a large part of his life important positions of trust in the various charitable, agricultural, and other institutions, which his townsmen and neighbors committed to him. In politics he was in early life a Whig, and

* Mr. Lincoln printed in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register," October, 1865, p. 357, some "Notes on the Lincoln Families of Massachusetts, with Some Account of the Family of Abraham Lincoln, late President of the United States."

became a member of the State House of Representatives in 1829 and 1840, and of the Senate in 1830 and 1831; and at one time declined a nomination for the national Congress. He was a Republican in his party affiliations after 1856.

Mr. Lincoln became early a student of local history, and in 1827 he published a "History of the Town of Hingham, Massachusetts," a book which is now very scarce. At that time there had been few attempts in this country to write such local histories. Outside of the occasional contributions of century and half-century orators, and the commemorative sermons and legendary verses of parish ministers and town bards, there had been hardly more than a score of publications which might properly be called local histories, many of these meagre. Nearly three quarters of them, moreover, were of Massachusetts towns. Snow's "History of Boston," printed in 1825, and Felt's "Annals of Salem," published in the very year of Mr. Lincoln's venture, stood perhaps for the best of their kind. Mr. Lincoln returned again to the same theme, when in 1835 he was called upon to address his townspeople on the two hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Hingham. He had already touched a kindred subject in his "Historical Sketch of Nantasket," which he printed in 1830.

The earliest of Mr. Lincoln's public addresses was given the year before he published his first book, when he was the town's orator, July 4, 1826. He delivered other orations, at Plymouth (Feb. 22, 1832), and Quincy (July 4, 1835), which were published, and among others, not printed, one at Brown University (Phi Beta Kappa, 1846). There was also printed a lecture on "Fisheries," which was read in 1832 in the Hall of the House of Representatives in Boston, and later before the Boston Society of Natural History. He was also called upon to make the address at the dedication of the Soldiers' Monument in Hingham, June 17, 1870; and this was also printed in "Hingham in the Civil War." He was a not infrequent contributor to the newspapers of his native town.

His interest in history led to his membership in the New England Historic, Genealogical Society and in the American Antiquarian Society, and he was a corresponding member of the Essex Institute. He became also a member of this Historical Society, Jan. 31, 1845; and was chairman of the committee which edited the "Hinckley Papers" in 1861, and he communicated a "Memoir of the Rev. Charles Brooks" to the Proceedings in 1880.

Mr. Lincoln married, Nov. 13, 1837, Mehitable Lincoln, a daughter of Welcome and Susanna (Gill) Lincoln. She died

Sept. 21, 1873, having had three children, all born in Hingham, and all surviving: Solomon (H. C. 1857), Arthur (H. C. 1863), and Francis Henry (H. C. 1867).

Mr. Lincoln died at Hingham, Dec. 1, 1881, and his remains were placed in the Hingham cemetery on the 3d.*

His equals in age had for the most part died; but the younger generation of his townspeople had learned of the respect felt by their fathers for his probity, and cherished the traditions of a wisdom so often deferred to, which came from experience in affairs, mingled with the teachings of books.

* The writer has used some memoranda kindly furnished at his request by the sons of Mr. Lincoln; a brief memoir in the "Hingham Journal," Dec. 9, 1881, written by Mr. George Lincoln, and a notice in the "Necrology of Brown University for 1881-82," which speaks of him as strongly attached to that institution, among whose graduates he had an unusually large acquaintance. As secretary of the class of 1822, "he carefully kept up the records of their lives as the years went on." Our Society is indebted to Mr. Lincoln's sons for the likeness which accompanies this sketch.